

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: Project is a wet meadow/sagebrush steppe watershed restoration project at the headwaters of Ash Creek, a tributary of the Pit River, in Lassen County. It is being implemented on a landscape scale that includes both private and BLM lands. This application covers the private land and a companion application covers the BLM (public) land.

It is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), a partnership of local government, non-profit and tribal groups that has already restored more than 5,000 watershed acres over the past 4 years. LCFSC is the lead and applicant for this project.

The primary restoration activities are the removal of invasive western juniper through biomass utilization and the implementation of adaptive range management techniques across a working landscape of public and private land.

Project will aid in restoring and conserving the Region's physical and living resources; aid in the preservation of working landscapes; reduce risk of wildfires; improve water and air quality; assist the Regional economy and enhance public lands. It will restore and protect habitat for numerous endangered species and species of concern.

The project is part of the larger CSSRI initiative that is currently implementing \$2.8 million dollars of watershed restoration projects across Lassen, Modoc and, potentially, Shasta Counties. Most of the initiative's administrative needs are being funded by the Lassen and Modoc County Boards of Supervisors, the ultimate sign of local and regional support. We are also working in tandem with a parallel USFS/BLM project that focuses primarily on public lands. CSSRI has primarily focused on private lands but we are beginning to implement cross boundary treatments across the public lands as well.

CSSRI has completed 10 landscape scale site specific restoration plans, this being one, and a 2.2 million acre regional restoration plan. The planning effort was funded with financial support from NRCS, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, the Pit RCD, Susanville Indian Rancheria, LCFSC and the Lassen County RAC. The implementation phase is partially funded by a half million dollar NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant with the goal of spreading CSSRI juniper/sagebrush restoration prescriptions across the entire western landscape of the United States.

LCFSC is asking SNC for \$99,999 and we will use these funds to expand our \$400,000.00 South Knob project that will begin this fall.